

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

Minutes of the Student Life Committee

5<sup>th</sup> March, 2014

**Present:** Prof. Kevin O’Kelly (Dean of Students (Chair), Mr Graham Daniels (Director of Accommodation and Catering), Mr Declan Treanor, (Disability Service), Dr Erika Doyle (Global Officer Co-ordinator), Ms Deirdre Flynn (Director, Student Counselling Service), Dr Claire Laudet (Senior Tutor), Mr Trevor Peare (Keeper of Readers’ Services, Library), Ms Sarah Smith (GSU Vice President), Donal McKeating (Chair, CSC), Mrs Michelle Tanner (Head of Sports and Recreation), Mr Stephen Garry (SU Welfare Officer), Mr Tom Lenihan (President TCDSU), Mr. Paul Coote, (Financial Planning Manager), Mr Seán Gannon (Director, Careers Advisory Service)

**Apologies:**, Mr Ryan Kenny (GSU President), Mr Conor Traynor (Vice Chair DUCAC), Ms Leona Coady (Academic Registry) Ms Janet Byrne (Financial Services Division), Prof Emma Stokes (Registrar of Chambers), Mr Brendan Tangney (Warden, Trinity Hall)

**Absent:** Mr John Murphy (Director, Information Systems Services), Ms Aoife Cox (Manager, Day Nursery & Crèche), Fr Peter Sexton (Convenor, Chaplaincy), Dr David McGrath (Director, College Health Service), Mr PJ Moloney (Chair, Publications Committee)

**Present:** Ms Helen Richardson (Minutes Secretary)

Section A

**SLC/13-14/53 Minutes (A.1)**

Under Section B an amendment was made in paragraph 2, instead of “Mr. Kenny asked...” it should read “Mr. Conor Traynor asked...”. The minutes of this meeting were otherwise approved.

**SLC/13-14/54 Matters Arising(A.2)**

Matters arising from the minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> February 2014 were discussed and are recorded below as items (SLC/13-14/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63)

**SLC/13-14/55 Study at Trinity Website**

The Dean of Students will contact Dr. Erika Doyle for clarification on issues raised regarding the current overlaps on the websites and to ask when will this new website come on line.

**SLC/13-14/56 Student Charter**

The Dean of Students received comments and suggestions from Deirdre Flynn and Erika Doyle

**SLC/13-14/57 College Website**

The Dean of Students should be consulted on the revamp of College Websites. Issues were raised regarding the budget for this and where would the extra money come from. The Dean of Students will seek clarification on these issues.

**SLC/13-14/58 Annual Report**

The Dean of Students will co ordinate a roster for presenting the Annual Reports.

**SLC/13-14/59 Off-books students**

The Dean of Students reminded the Committee that, last year, the Planning Group had rejected the proposals regarding off-books students. They were concerned that implementing the proposal would encourage students to go off-books and were not convinced that the proposed fee would cover the cost of providing services. The Committee agreed that the Dean of Students should re submit the proposal to the Planning Group reiterating that the fee of €500 is reasonable as it is the existing fee that College charges to students doing a professional reorientation course and it is important for retention purposes that students off-books are properly supported so that they can be successful and continue their studies. Where possible services will provide evidence of the numbers of off-books students that have been facilitated. Concerns were raised regarding resources and Deirdre Flynn agreed to do an approximate costing of off-books students using the Counselling Service. The Dean of Students will resubmit the proposal with the information gathered from the Committee.

**SLC/13-14/60 Strategic Planning 2014-2019 (A.3)**

This meeting is the last meeting before the first draft of the reference document is finalised. The deadline for this is 21<sup>st</sup> March 2014. At the next meeting the Committee will have the opportunity to comment on the document.

**SLC/13-14/61 Irish Survey of Student Engagement (A.4)**

Sarah Smith, GSU Vice President informed the committee that the survey was not doing particularly well and the response rate was not very high. This is the case across the board in all institutions. In Trinity, there have only been 500-600 replies to date. The closing date for replies is 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

**SLC/13-14/62 Update on College Alcohol Policy (A.5)**

The last alcohol policy was approved in 2002. Some of the proposals included in the amended policy raised some concerns with the Committee. Brendan Tangney was unable to attend the meeting but had sent in some concerns he had regarding the provision of 'dry' apartments. His main concern was the usefulness and the viability of the implementation. The Committee agreed with his concerns, particularly on the issue of who would police the policy, how the policy would be implemented, what would the consequences be if it was breached. Other concerns were raised, for example the recruitment of students by alcohol promotions companies and their use of social media, such as Facebook, where it was not always clear that a given Facebook group was not an official TCD group. It was also suggested that College should look into making more use of the e-Pub interactive websurvey to raise awareness of alcohol consumption amongst students . The Dean of Students will pass these comments back to Joe Barry, the Chair of the Alcohol Policy Committee.

**SLC/13-14/63 Orientation (A.6)**

The Dean of Students updated the Committee on the orientation procedures. The ID collection for students will not be course specific this year. Students will be able to collect their ID cards all day

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during the week and the collection point will open late on Tuesday and Thursday. ID cards will be collected from the Examination Hall. The Provost will be asked to do 3 talks this year during the orientation period, one for postgraduate students and two for undergraduates. The committee suggested preparing a video to show to new entrants, however resources will be an issue. The Dean of Students will convene the Orientation Steering Group to discuss Orientation in more details.

## **Section B**

### **SLC/13-14/64 AOB (B.1)**

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 11am in the Boardroom

## **Section C**

### **LC/13-14/65 Trinity College Code of Practice for students with disabilities (C.1)**

The College code of practice for students with disabilities was noted by the Committee